

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed January 31, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13 – 15, 18, 19 and 21 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 13, 14 and 19, has added claim 21, and has canceled claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 20 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 20 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 5, 7 – 11, 13 – 15, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Kurachi*. With respect to claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10, Applicant has canceled these claims and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In this regard, *Kurachi* discloses a print managing system and print managing method. Specifically, *Kurachi* teaches:

At first, when a print command is inputted in the client apparatus 201 or 202, print data in a form of the page description language is generated by the print data generating device 1a (Step S51). Next, it is determined whether or not the encryption of this print data is necessary (Step S52). If the encryption is instructed by an operation of a user (Step S52); YES, the print data is encrypted by the print data encryption device 201g (Step S53). However, if the encryption is not instructed (Step S52; NO), the encryption is not performed.

Next, the print data is sent to the printer 203 by the print data sending device 1c (Step S54), and received by the print data receiving device 3a of the printer 203 (Step S60). Now, it is determined whether or not the decryption of the print data is necessary, *i.e.*, the print data is encrypted (Step S61). ***If the print data is encrypted (Step 61; YES), it is decrypted by the print data decryption device 203j (Step S62). If the print data is not encrypted (Step S61; NO), the decryption is not necessary and the print data is stored in a spool area by the print data storing device 3b (Step S63).*** Then, rough image data based on the received print data is produced by the rough image producing device 3g (Step S64). The rough image data is stored by the rough image storing device 3h while correlated to the based print data (Step S65). Then, the print data is managed by the print job managing device 3d for each print job, and sequentially printed.
(*Kurachi*, Col. 15, lines 14 – 40). (Emphasis Added).

As set for in the exemplary teaching of *Kurachi* above, Applicant respectfully asserts that there is no disclosure in *Kurachi* that involves storing of encrypted data as is generally recited in the pending claims.

In this regard, claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1. A method for sending a print job to a preselected recipient comprising:
encrypting a data stream received in a first peripheral device, ***the first peripheral device being configured to:***
store the data stream as encrypted data; and
in response to a first user input, access the encrypted data for printing a first hardcopy document using the encrypted data; and
transmitting said encrypted data from said first peripheral device to a second peripheral device, ***the second peripheral device being configured to:***
store the encrypted data; and
access the encrypted data for printing a second hardcopy document using the encrypted data.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose a first peripheral device being configured to “store the data stream as encrypted data,” much less a first peripheral device that is configured to “in response to a first user input, access the encrypted data for printing a first hardcopy document using the encrypted data.” Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 13 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1 and do not stand otherwise rejected in the Action, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 14, that claim has been amended to recite:

14. A printing system comprising:
a first peripheral device comprising:
a processor for receiving a data stream through a network;
an encryption module for converting said data stream from plain text to cipher text;
memory for storing the cipher text until access to said cipher text by a user is authorized;
a printing mechanism for printing a hardcopy document corresponding to the cipher text; and
a sender module for transmitting said cipher text through said network to a preselected recipient as an attachment to an email message.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kurachi* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 14. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 15 and 18 are dependent claims that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 14 and do not stand otherwise rejected in the Action, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 6 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kurachi*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Specifically, Applicant has set forth various deficiencies of the *Kurachi* reference under the section of this response entitled "Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102." As the Office Action

does not remedy these deficiencies, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is also deficient. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that the *Kurachi* references does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations recited in independent claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, or independent claim 14, from which dependent claim 19 depends. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections are improper and that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, Applicant has added claim 21. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 21 is in condition for allowance for at least the reason that claim 21 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 1, the allowability of which is described above. Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

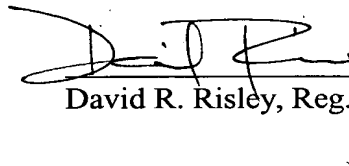
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

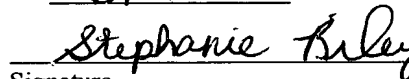
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


David R. Risley, Reg. No. 39,345

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 3/31/05.


Signature